## AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 US Appln. No. 09/654,939

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

## Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (previously presented): An adaptive variable-length coding method whereby quantized orthogonal transform coefficients are scanned in a zigzag pattern, are modified into run, level data and then are variable-length coded in a coding system for image data, said method comprising the steps of:

setting a plurality of variable-length coding tables having different patterns of a regular region and an escape region according to statistical characteristics of said run, level data;

selecting one of said plurality of variable-length coding tables according to intra/inter mode information of the currently processed block, zigzag scanning position and quantization step size; and

20

variable-length coding the orthogonal transform coefficients according to said selected variable-length coding table, wherein said selecting step has the selecting range of a plurality of variable-length coding tables having different patterns of a regular region and an escape region according to said intra/inter mode information of the currently Processed block.

- 2. (previously presented): The adaptive variable-length coding method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said variable-length coding table is selected in accordance with said zigzag scanning position and quantization step size within the range determined by the corresponding mode.
- 3. (previously presented): The adaptive variable-length coding method as claimed in claim 1, wherein data of said escape region of said variable-length coding table selected in said variable-length-coding step is coded into data having variable run-length and level-length.
  - 4. (canceled).
  - 5. (canceled).
  - 6. (canceled).
  - 7. (canceled).

## AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 US Appln. No. 09/654,939

8. (currently amended): An adaptive variable-length coding method in which quantized orthogonal transform coefficients are scanned in a zig-zag pattern, and then are variable-length coded in a coding system for image data said method comprising he steps of:

setting a plurality of variable-length coding tables;

selecting one of said plurality of variable-length coding tables according to intra/inter mode information, and scanning position and quantization step size, wherein said selecting step has the selecting range of a plurality of variable length coding tables, and

variable-length coding said quantized orthogonal transform coefficients according to said selected variable-length coding table.

- 9. (previously presented): The adaptive variable-length coding method of claim 8, wherein said variable-length coding tables have different patterns of a regular region and an escape region.
- 10. (previously presented): The adaptive variable-length coding method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said variable-length coding table is selected in accordance with said scanning position and quantization step size within the range determined in accordance with said intra/inter mode information.
- 11. (previously presented): The adaptive variable-length coding method as claimed in claim 9, wherein data of said escape region of said variable-length coding table selected in said variable-length-coding step is coded into data having variable run-length and level-length.